FROM THE CAPITAL.

Stagantion of Business-Interesting Gossip-How a Piece of News was Hunted Down-Talk About the Removal of the Capital-The President's Jonah.

From Our Own Correspondent. WASHINGTON, August 15, 1869,

DULLNESS AT THE CAPITAL. Nothing could be more stupid and uninteresting than Washington in these piping times of peace, That part of the population which makes the place something more than a village is away, and nothing remain but the unfortnate government clerks and the irrepressible negro. Except at three o'clock in the afternoon, when the employes of the departments are on their way to their lodgings and "hash houses," the broad avenues are deserted, and only now and then you meet a pedestrian like a lonely traveller on a country road. The hotels are in mourning, with no prospect of being comforted until Congress meets. At the Metropolitan and the Ebbitt the arrivals average half-a-dozen a day; while at the second-class houses, like Willard's and the National, the total number of guests could be counted on your fingers. Everybody is complaining. The shopkeepers declare they will be ruined. and I should not be surprised if next winter they ask Congress for an appropriation to indemnify them. The lodging-house keepers (everybody, it appears to me, is a lodging-house keeper here) have their tene ments plastered all over with "Rooms to let." And yet if you venture to inquire the price, they will ask you as much as if there was but one room to be had in the city, and a hundred people were after it Even the proprietors of the rum-mills will inform you with a sigh that "business is dull," and then brightening up, add, "but it will be better when Congress meets." As for the gambling-houses, they have closed; out of town for the summer, nothing to do, will reopen with "the session," It is curious how everything here depends upon the Government. and more especially that branch of it known as Congress. The present stagnation in everything is calculated to give the Washingtonians a foretaste of what would follow should

THE REMOVAL OF THE CAPITAL, which is now being agitated, become a reality, There is no city in the United States, large or small, so utterly dependent upon "Government pap" as Washington. The absence of Congress for six o eight months, and of the President and heads of de partments for a few weeks, nearly bankrupts every interest in the city, and reduces the place to the verge of destruction. It is easy to imagine what would become of it if the public buildings were moved, and both President and Congress should take their departure forever. Since the agitation for removing the capital to St. Louis or some other Western city has assumed a serious aspect, the capitalists and business men have become considerably alarmed. They have seen enough of the Western men in Congress for the last nine years to know that when they undertake a thing they usually put it through. When it is known that there is not a capitalist, a property-holder, or a business man here who has not made his money, either directly or indirectly, out of the Government, is not surprising that they should be reluctant to part with the hen that lays golden eggs so valuable and so numerous. For years past, whenever the removal of the capital was mooted, in or out of Congress, the Washingtonians have solaced themselves with the reflection that the Government had spent too much money here to pull up stakes and go away. The lavish offers of land and money made by the Western men as a premium for the removal of the capital, and the fact that after all the government property here is only valued at something like forty million dollars, has opened the eyes of the Washing tonians to the probabilities of disaster ahead. It is hard to stir them into action, for they partake very much of the slow, unenterprising character of the people of Maryland and Virginia. Nothing, however, arouses a man's energies, if he have any, like a threatened demonstration on his pocket. I hear that a proposition has been made to raise a purse, say of \$100,000, to be used in defeating the schemes for the removal of the capital. But I doubt very

much if it will come to anything. A PIECE OF NEWS WAS HELD Of the thousands of people all over the country who read the report of the conversation between the President and General Tarbell, of Mississippi, in the Associated Press despatches of last Thursday morning, scarcely one ever stopped to think how it came there. These are extremely dull times with newspaper correspondents, as well as with everybody else at Washington. Everything that looks like news is seized upon with an cagerness which betokens short rations in that line. The report of the conversation between the President and Tarbell was gotten up in a quiet way, but those who came in possession of it were so elated at the prospect of making "a beat" in these dull days that they could not keep their secret. Tarbell's original intention was to give it to the Associated Press, so that it might have the widest circulation "for the benefit of the party," as he said. Before it had been revised by the President. however, Tarbeil departed for Philadelphia, and left the matter in the hands of one Captain Barr. Now Barr is a violent radical, and believes in the New York Tribune as devoutly as a Presbyterian does in the "Catechisms larger and shorter." not know what his ideas of the circulation of the Tribune are, but he evidently thought that to give the conversation to the Tribuna correspondent, and have it published exclusively in that paper, would be equal to running it through the "gates and alleys" of the Associated Press. At all events, he gave it to the -Tribune, but not before he had intimated to the agent of the Associated Press that such a document was in existence, and that he would give them a synopsis to send South. The history of human affairs demonstrates very clearly that a secret can be kept by but a few persons, except it is barred and locked by sacred oaths. The fact that a conversation had been held between the President and General Tarbell, that it had been revised and approved by the President, and would appear exclusively in the Tribune next day, became known on "Newspaper row" about noon of Wednesday. There was a chance for a "beat," the only one probably of the season, and the prospect was that the Tribune by fortuitous circumstances, would be the lucky newspaper. The correspondents of the Herald, Tomes, and other papers put their heads together, and a council of war. For each of the papers to have got the thing and sent it special would have been no "beat," at least none of importance. It was therefore resolved to get it, if possible, for the Associated Press, so that all the papers would receive it, and thereby prevent the Tribune from having it exclusive. Securing a copy of the document independently of the Tribuns correspondent was no easy matter. First of all the Herald and Times went to Col. Barr, but he gave them no satisfaction. They next repaired to the White House to see what could be done with the President. They found him smoking the stump of an indifferent looking cigar, and without undue ceremony stated their business, Grant said he didn't what to do. The matter gone out of his jurisdiction had but still he would like to have it go to the Associated Press. Finally his private secretary, General Porter, wrote a note to Barr setting forth the President's desire to have the matter go through the Associated Press, and suggesting that Barr take it there. This was despatched at once by an orderly on horseback to Barr's lodgings. Now, poor Barr has the misfortune to be a Government employe, and the mere wish of the President carries with it, to him, all the force of an absolute command. The astute representatives of the Herald and Times were not ignorant of this fact, and hence they brought the pressure upon Barr from the proper quarter. They were not disappointed as to the consequences. Poor Barr had scarcely read the note from the Executive Mansion before he was out looking up the Tribune man so as to get the docu-

ment from him. But the Tribuna man could not be

this city was to be furnished with a copy. Ascertaining that Colonel Forney was in town, the Herald man at once sought him, and after stating what had already been done to obtain it, requested him to give a copy to the Associated Press. The Colonel might have had it exclusive, both for the Chronicle here and the Press in Philadelphia; but with commendable disinterestedness and zeal for his party, as well as a desire to oblige the representatives of the press, he promised the Herald man that the Associated Press should have a copy. The correspondent of the Tribune, believing that he had the thing all to himself, with a sort of a protective tariff on it, filed it at the telegraph office early in the evening, and gave himself no further trouble about it. Judge of his surprise and chagrin when he learned about 11 o'clock that the Associated Press had sent it to New York verbation of literation. The Herald men, with the other correspondents, celebrated their victory in various ways that night, but chiefly by singing in chorus that patriotic air-

"We won't go home till morning," much to the mortification of the young man of the

THE PRESIDENT'S JONAH. Some men who marry are unfortunate in obtaining a troublesome mother-in-law. It does not often happen, however, that all his relatives by law are a nuisance and an incumbrance to him. This seems to be the luck of President Grant. He might not have been as wise a man if he had never met any of the Dents (with the exception, of course, of his wife), but he would certainly have been a happier one. First of all, General Dent made himself obnoxious to all the visitors at the White House by his offensive manners and insufferable arrogance. Now ludge Dent comes upon the scene and endeavors

to stir up a feud between the President and some of his Cabinet Ministers, He wants to be Governor of Mississippi, but being a Democrat, he will reach the throne only on the shoulders of that party. Of course he wants the support of the administration. If he could only get Boutwell and Creswell out of the way, everything, re thinks, would be serene, but "there's the rub." Boutwell is a politician, older, abler, and more exserienced than the great Judge Dent. He knows ust what Dent is after, and he is resolved that he shall not have it. The President has but one course left, and that is to take Jonah Dent and toss him overboard.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

"Duty" at the Walnut. The Walnut Street Theatre opened on Saturday evening to a very good audience, considering the season. The galleries were crowded, while the lower part of the house indicated to some extent he absence from the city of those playgoers who pay the highest prices, or else their indisposition to ndulge their dramatic tastes during the dog days. During the recess the theatre has been thoroughly renovated and redecorated, until it presents quite a novel and attractive appearance. The pale blue and walnut-colored paper that for several years past has given a rather dingy look to the house has been superseded by crimson, blue, and gold in the auditorium and lobbies, the boxes have been hung with face curtains, and the heavy inside doors of the vestibule, which were a source of frequent annovance, have been removed and lighter ones put in their places. The result of these improvements; is that the theatre has a bright, cheerful appearance, that it is to be hoped will have an inspiring effect on both the actors and the audiences. The seats have also been newly upholstered, the vestibule laid with oil-cloth, and the lobbies and passage-ways with clean matting. The management have omitted but one thing to make the improvements complete, and that is to have new curtains painted. The present ones have done good duty for many a year, and in ontrast with the rest of the house they look deidedly shabby. If the green curtain was supplanted by a neat green baize one, and the act-drop by a handsome combination of architecture and landscape from the brush of Russell Smith, the habitues of the Walnut would scarcely know the place.

The season was inaugurated on Saturday evening by the production of a new play by Henry Leslie, he author of The Orange Girl, and entitled Duty Whatever the deficiencies of this piece may be, it has the decided merit of not being trash. It introduces a number of sensational scenic effects, but it does not depend upon these alone. The story is interesting and calculated to appeal to the popular sympathies and tastes, while the moral tone of the play is pure and healthy. These are all merits of no little moment when so much dramatic work is but before the public that has nothing to recommend it except the opportunities it affords for the scene painter, machinist, and carpenter. The author has evidently taken some of the leading ideas of the play from Tennyson's poem of "Enoch Arden," but the real interest of some of the best scenes depends upon other circumstances than the one which affords the poet an opportunity for his strongest effect.

The events of the drama circle about the love of two men for the same woman, "Silas Engleheart," a coast guardsman, befriends and rears two children, "Ruby Dayrell" and "Hetty Arnold." The girl and boy love each other, but "Silas" himself falls in love with "Hetty," and from a sense of duty she renonnces her preference and marries him. "Ruby" also submits, from a sense of duty and out of gratitude to his benefactor, and "Silas" remains in happy ignorance of the disquietude he has caused. His calousy indeed is aroused, and in the first scene of the play "Ruby" is washed ashore from a wreck at his feet, and a struggle takes place between his duty and his desire to get rid of a supposed rival. His nobler impulses, however prevail, he rescues "Ruby," and his jealousy is quieted by "Hetty's" assurance that she loves him alone. "Ruby" goes to sea to hide his distress, and during his absence misfortune falls upon "Silas," The mill belonging to his father is seized for debt, and the furniture is taken away to be sold. At an opportune moment arrives from a long voyage, with a pocket full of prize-money. With the assistance of his shipmates he rescues the furniture, pays their gebts, and makes "Silas" and "Hetty" happy. "Silas, however, had already snipped for a voyage to the Arctic regions, and he therefore takes his departure. leaving his wife and child in charge of "Rusy." After an absence of several years intelligence of his death is received, and "Ruby," after much waiting and importunity, succeeds in getting "Hetty" to consent to marry him. While the wedding is going on "Silas" makes his appearance, and breaks out into imprecations on his wife and friend, and refuses to listen to their explanations. He therefore departs, taking his little girl with him, and "Hetty," overcome with grief, jumps into the mill-race. "Ruby" attempts to rescue her, but is drawn under the wheel and killed, while

There are one or two points in the play that seem to want a few explanatory lines to make the connec tion perfectly clear, and several semi-comic scenes which have no particular merit or meaning are interpolated apparently for the purpose of allowing time for changing the scenes. With these exceptions the play is well constructed. There is no particular pretension to literary style, but the dialogue is direct and forcible, and it has the merit of not being unnecessarily wordy. Severa, of the scenes are highly dramatis and afford opportunities for effective acting.

Mr. Walcot played the part of "Silas Engleheart" creditably, and Mr. Lewis Morrison, the new 'heavy' man, made a favorable impression as "Ruby Dayrell." The character is not one that will enable a new actor to display all his talents to the best advantage; but in spite of this, and of a want of force at times, we are inclined to think that Mr. Morrison will be a valuable acquisition. He appears to be intelligent and in earnest, two very important qualifications for a stock actor. Mr. W. H. Bailey acted the part of "Trafalgar Joe," the father of "Silas," better than any we have seen him undertake for a long time. Mrs. Walcot personated "Hetty Arnold" in an entirely acceptable manner, playing, as she

always, does with care and expression. found, and Barr was unsuccessful. As soon as Barr The drama was preceded on Saturday evening by reported progress to the Herald man, that irrepressithe pretty w. Ii-worn-out farce of Sketches in India. ble individual set about devising ways and means to the performance of which was chiefly remarkable get it from some other source. An arrangement had been made, it appears, whereby the Chronicle of from the fact that Mrs. Walcot gave an entirely lady-

like personation of "Sally Scraggs," something almost unprecedented in these parts, as nearly every actress who undertakes this part seems to consider it her duty to render it as vulgar and disgusting as possible. It is due to Mrs. Walcot to say that her performance was not only intrinsically better, but very much more amusing, than we are accustomed to see in the representations of this heroine. In this farce Mr. C. M. Bradshaw, the new second comedian, gave a good piece of character-acting as "Count Glorieux," the French fortune hunter. This gentleman also gave a little sketch of a drunken sailor in the drama of Duty, which was good in its way, and seemed to indicate that he has versatility and ability.

There seems to be a prospect that during the present eason there will be a succession of good dramatic performances at our principal theatres. From present appearances the public are satiated with the leg business and buriesque, and the taste is inclining again to the legitimate. If this be really so, there will be cause for rejoicing, and if the managers find it difficult to keep a supply of novelties, they will probably do as well, if not better, by reviving, from ime to time, old pieces that have been shelved for so long a time that they will be as good as new to the majority of play-goers. There are a number of good dramas that contain all the elements of popularity that are almost unknown to the present generation, which are far more worthy of production than the majority of the new pieces that are brought out om season to season. An occasional revival of some of these would be interesting to new as well as old lovers of the drama.

AT THE ARCH Duprez & Benedict's minstrels will ommence their second week this evening. Several new features will be introduced, and the performances will doubtless prove as attractive as they have ocen during the past week.

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LET US DISCUSS THE GREAT QUESTION. What is the nost important of all earthly blessings, in the estimation of every intelligent human being? Clearly, it is HEALTH; for soundness of body and mind i

essential to the enjoyment of all the other good gifts o How, then, shall those who possess this inestimable

treasure endeavor to preserve it, and how shall those who have lost it seek to retrieve it?

These questions have been asked in all ages, but never have they been as satisfactorily responded to as at the present day; and the answers which common sense, enlightened by science and experience, gives to them in the Nineteenth Century may be briefly stated thus:-

To protect the system against all influences that tend to enerate disease. THERE IS NOTHING LIKE INVIGORATION To re-establish the health on a firm basis, when it has been lost by imprudence or any other cause, the system must be SIMULTANEOUSLY STRENGTHENED, REGULATED,

AND PURIFIED. These ends can only be attained through the agency of a preparation which combines the attributes of a TONIC, a CONNECTIVE, a SLOOD DEFURENT, and an APERIENT. All these essentials are effectually blended in Hoster-TER'S STOMACH RETTERS. They contain nothing drastic. irritating, or inflammatory. The juices and extracts of sanative herbs, roots, and barks are their sole medicinal ingredients, and these are rendered diffusable by combina tion with the spirituous essence of rye, the purest of all

alcoholic stimulants The weak and feeble, and especially those suffering from biliousness, indigestion, and nervousness, absolutely require the renovating aid of this powerful tonic and alterative during the heated term, and cannot prudently postpone its use for a single day. A word to the wise i

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ROHESHO. HAWK .- On the 15th instant, SAMUEL S. HAWK, The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully requested to attend his funeral, from the residence of his father-in-law, Michael Ott, No. 1729 Marshall street, or Wednesday afternoon, the 18th instant, at 1 o'clock.

HAYS.—On Sunday morning, the list in tant. John P., infant son of George and Emma Hays, aged I year 6 months and 15 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of hisparents, No. 1018 Buttonwood street, on Wednesday afternoon next at 3 o'clock. To proceed to Mount Peace Gemeters. LINDSAY. On August 15, ISAAC C. LINDSAY, in he 37th year of his age. the 37th year of his age.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, on Wednesday at I o'clock, from No. 5740 Market street, without further notice. McGAHEY.—On the 15th instant, BRIDGET McGA-HEY, wife of William McGahey, in the 25th year of her

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to at-tend the funeral, from her husbans's residence, No. 2 N. (Eighteenth street, on Tuesday atternoon at I o'clock Services at Cathedral Chapel, Interment at Cathedra McKNIGHT,-On the 15th instant, MARY, daughter of

Thomas and Catharine McKnight, aged 4 years 2 months and 9 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her parents' residence, No. 1930 Cuthbert street, on Tuesday at 2 o'clock. TARR.—On the 13th instant, JAMES B., son of Mary G. and the late Elihu D. Tarr, in the 35th year or his are.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his mother. No. 1749 N. Thirteenth street, on Montay, the 18th instant, at 4 o'clock P. M. Interment at Monument Cemetery. (Washington papers please copy.)

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CHAMPION SAFES.

GREAT FIRE AT CAMDEN. CAMDEN, June 1

MESSES. FARREL, HERRING & CO., No. 629 Chesant Street, Philadelphia. Dear Sirs :- At the very destructive fire of Messrs, McKeen & Bingham's Saw Mill, which occurred on the evening of the 6th instant in this place, the Safe manufactured by you, belonging to the late firm of

F. M. Bingham & Garrison, was in the building, and

subjected to a very severe test, as the fire raged

flercely for several hours; and so great was the heat

that the brass plates were melted off, and to our great surprise, when the Safe was opened, we found all the books and papers uninjured. Yours respectfully,

SAMUEL B. GARRISON,

Late of F. M. Bingham & Garrison.

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More than 30,000 Herring's Safes have been and are now in use, and over SIX HUNDRED have passed through accidental fires, preserving their contents in some instances where many others failed. Second-hand Safes of our own and other makers having been received in part pay for the IMPROTED HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION, for sale at

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